

CAPITOL OFFICE
1021 O STREET, SUITE 6640
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4018
FAX (916) 651-4918

CHULA VISTA DISTRICT OFFICE
303 H STREET, SUITE 200
CHULA VISTA, CA 91910
TEL (619) 409-7690

EL CENTRO DISTRICT OFFICE
1224 STATE STREET, SUITE D
EL CENTRO, CA 92243
TEL (760) 335-3442

WWW.SENATE.CA.GOV/PADILLA
SENATOR.PADILLA@SENATE.CA.GOV

California State Senate

SENATOR
STEPHEN C. PADILLA
EIGHTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #4 ON
STATE ADMINISTRATION AND
GENERAL GOVERNMENT
CHAIR
MEMBER
AGRICULTURE
BUDGET
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
HOUSING
NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER

SB 1309 – Lithium Battery Production Council

Imperial County’s Lithium Valley presents an enormous economic opportunity California. The Salton Sea has one of the largest reserves of lithium in the world, which could fulfill over one-third of the global demand for lithium. With the world demand for lithium expected to grow as much as tenfold in the next decade, the development of a domestic supply of lithium around the Salton Sea has the potential to unleash billions in economic opportunity, however the surrounding area lacks critical infrastructure to support the emerging industry.

In 2023, a new report by Lawrence Berkeley National Lab estimated that there was more lithium than previously estimated, enough to support over 375 million batteries for electric vehicles – more than the total number of vehicles currently on U.S. roads.¹ Yet the region surrounding the state’s vast lithium deposits has critical infrastructure gaps including a lack of bridges and roads and lack of communication and transportation infrastructure. As California seeks to power the future by producing lithium in a more sustainable and environmentally safer way than nearly anywhere else in the world, it is critical the state has a comprehensive strategy that secures California’s global leadership in lithium battery manufacturing by preparing the region to meet the demands of sustaining a global industry.

SB 1309 would direct the California Energy Commission (CEC), in consultation with other state agencies, including the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (Go-Biz) and the California Workforce Development Board, to establish a Lithium Battery Production Council to conduct an economic analysis on workforce development needs, infrastructure needs, sewage and wastewater treatment, and housing needs for lithium battery production.

Staff Contact

Name: Alexis Castro
Title: Legislative Director
Email: Alexis.castro@sen.ca.gov
Capitol Office: (916) 651 – 4018

Support

¹ California, State of. “New Report Highlights the Promise of Lithium Valley.” California Governor, November 29, 2023.
<https://www.gov.ca.gov/2023/11/28/new-report-highlights-the-promise-of-lithium-valley/>.